

## Indiana Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

**It is our goal to encourage Indiana's children to participate in outdoor activities and discover their heritage. Numerous studies have shown that children who participate in outdoor activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills, a stronger self-image and lead more fulfilled lives.**

**We believe that all Indiana children are entitled to experience these activities in the outdoors, regardless of ability:**

1. Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.
2. Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife and history.
3. Experience traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.
4. Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.
5. Camp out under the stars.
6. Climb a tree.
7. Visit a farm.
8. Plant a seed or a tree and watch it grow.
9. Splash and play in streams, lakes and ponds.
10. Enjoy the outdoors using all the senses.
11. Ask questions, find answers and share nature with a friend.

### Current Supporters

Allen County Parks  
Amos W. Butler Audubon Society  
Central Indiana Land Trust  
City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation  
Department  
Crossroads Boy Scout Council, Boy Scouts of  
America  
Department of Recreation Park & Tourism  
Studies, Indiana University  
DuBois County 4H Shooting Sports  
DuBois County Sportsmen's Club  
Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands  
Hoosier Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation  
Society  
Indiana Association of Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts  
Indiana Bass Federation Nation  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Indiana Hunter Education Association  
Indiana Izaak Walton League of America  
Indiana National Resources Foundation

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society  
Indiana Park and Recreation Association  
Indiana Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever  
Indianapolis Admirals  
Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable  
Indiana Urban Forest Council  
Indiana Wildlife Federation  
INShape Indiana/Division of Nutrition and  
Physical Activity  
National Association for Interpretation, Region 4  
(Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Ontario)  
National Audubon Society Indiana Office  
National Muzzleloading Rifle Association  
Red-tail Conservancy, Inc.  
The Nature Conservancy Indiana Field Office  
St. Anthony Conservation Club  
St. Joseph County Parks  
Sycamore Land Trust  
Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and  
Development Council  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc.

## **Guiding Purpose and Plan for the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**

### The creation of the Indiana Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights will:

- Result in more Indiana youth and families benefiting from outdoor recreation experiences.
- Create a unifying message regarding youth and families in the outdoors for federal, state, county, municipal, non-profit, and for profit agencies.
- Result in more informal collaborations and formal partnerships between all involved agencies and organizations.
- Promote an increase in family health and wellness.
- Increase future stewardship of outdoor resources on public and private lands.
- Increase the overall quality of life for Indiana's youth and families.
- Highlight the abundant natural resources and recreation opportunities available in Indiana.

### Planned Action Steps for Establishing Children's Bill of Rights

- Development of draft Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights by Indiana DNR.
- Garnering support from other agencies and organizations.
- Development of logo, promotional poster and website.
- Development of an outdoor activity checklist that can be used by children at any park and recreation site to record progress in completing all eleven items. Following completion, children and families may print a certificate recognizing their efforts and may be eligible for other incentives (yet to be determined).
- Request for a Proclamation from the Office of the Governor.
- Public announcement of the proclamation through a media event or release that includes DNR and sponsor agencies and promotes upcoming outdoor events.
- Longer term, development of an online calendar or website that will allow agencies from around the state to publicize activities that are designed to fulfill the elements included in the Children's Bill of Rights.
- Regular communication between agencies and organizations regarding promoting children in the outdoors.



# Indiana Children's OUTDOOR Bill of Rights

**Get Outdoors — Get Playing**  
ChildrenPlayOutdoors.IN.gov

**All Indiana children, regardless of ability, should have the right to:**

- 1 Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.
- 2 Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife and history.
- 3 Experience traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.
- 4 Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.
- 5 Camp under the stars.
- 6 Climb a tree.
- 7 Visit a farm.
- 8 Plant a seed or tree and watch it grow.
- 9 Splash and play in streams, lakes and ponds.
- 10 Enjoy the outdoors using all the senses.
- 11 Ask questions, find answers and share nature with a friend.

Developed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks & Reservoirs.

**DNR**

